Funding Quality Initiatives: The RCN Cancer Quality & Innovation Program

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Program Lead
The RCN Research Fund
Goals:

• Position **McGill as a leader** in the field of cancer care quality research.

• Allow health professionals **at the point of care** to define and validate innovations in cancer care quality.

• Develop **networks of collaborative research and care** within the McGill oncology community, as the academic complement of the Disease Site Program.

• Strengthen the culture of **evidence-based planning and objective assessment based on validated metrics**.

• Does it work?
  • 1 FRQS
  • 2 CIHR
  • 10 Oral Presentations
  • 15 Poster Presentations
  • 20 Abstracts
  • 5 Published Manuscripts
Highlights:

- Amount: $100,000 / project
- Cancer care quality defined broadly:
  - More accurate diagnostics and prognostication
  - Better, safer (and often lesser) care
  - Best outcomes
  - Least adverse events
  - Most effective support strategies
- Networks of collaboration: across hospitals, specialties, professions
- External peer review by recognized oncology health services research experts
Common Mistakes:

- Budget Not Appropriate (e.g. exceeds $100K)
- Quality of Proposal:
  - Unclear Objectives
  - Incoherent
  - Exceeding # pages
- Weak Methodology or Design (e.g. inadequate sample size, feasibility, measurable outcomes)

RCN Strategic Priorities
- Research question/area demonstrates no link

Research Team:
- Low collaborative effort between RCN-partner institutions
- Does not include relevant clinical/scientific expertise

Not Seeking Feedback
- If you are turned down, please reach out to us!
## RCN Research Fund 2018: Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator*</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Partner Sites**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. C. Loiselle</td>
<td>Implementation and testing of a sustainable support program as a complement to an ongoing RCN patient reported outcomes (PROs) initiative</td>
<td>JGH, MUHC, SMHC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. M. Boutros</td>
<td>Impact of patient-centered program for low anterior resection syndrome: a multicenter randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>JGH, MUHC, SMHC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. L. Hendren</td>
<td>Developing &amp; evaluating a mobile application for caregivers</td>
<td>MUHC, SMHC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. R. Forghani</td>
<td>Radiogenomic models with artificial intelligence for detection of nodal micrometastases to reduce unnecessary neck dissections in head and neck cancer patients</td>
<td>JGH, MUHC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Principal Investigator's affiliation does not necessarily correspond to institution where funds will be spent

** Institutions are presented in alphabetical order
The RCN Quality Improvement Initiatives Fund (QI2)
Quality Improvement Initiatives Fund (QI²)

Goal:

- Support quality improvement projects with a focus on operational aspect of quality improvement.
- Key words: Operational, direct impact on patients
- Achieve optimal care and service organization, at the highest quality and safety levels, in a manner that is seamless from the patients’ perspective.

Funding available:

- Up to $30,000 + support for project management expertise

Selection process:

- All applications are reviewed by an internal committee
- Review Committee: Oncology Lead & Nursing Lead, RCN Clinical Lead, RCN Director of Operations and CQI lead

NEXT LAUNCH WINTER 2018
Common Mistakes:

- **Budget Not Appropriate**  
  (e.g. exceeds $30K)

- Submitting a Research project **vs** a Quality improvement initiative proposal

- **Submitting an Unsustainable Project**

- **Quality of Proposal**:
  - Not highlighting the need for improvement
  - Intervention description not clear
  - Not having a meaningful impact on patients

- Not respecting the **12-Month Timeframe**

- **Lacking support from**:
  - Department Heads
  - Key stakeholders
# Completed QI² projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Care Clinics in Oncology: Feasibility Study</td>
<td>E. Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility Preservation for Male Cancer Patients</td>
<td>B. Herrero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Adolescent &amp; Young Adult Service Line</td>
<td>Dr P. Kavan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Start The Talk” Supporting Cancer Patients’ Families</td>
<td>A. Laizner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the quality of bladder cancer patients care across the RCN partner institutions: implementation ERAS protocol for radical cystectomy</td>
<td>Dr. F. Bladou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrating medical cannabis into treatment options of supportive care programs</td>
<td>Dr A. Vigano</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The RCN Kuok Scholarship Fund
Kuok Scholarship

• **Goal:** Endowment to support graduate scholarships as part of the objectives of the Rossy Cancer Network.

• **Eligibility:**
  - Open to Graduate students engaged in a formal training program at McGill University
  - Open to Masters’ and PhD program trainees
  - Field of study must be related to oncology

• **Available funding (2-year period):**
  - $25,000 /year (PhD)
  - $17,000 /year (MSc)

• **Selection committee:** Chair of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology, CQI Lead, members of McGill Oncology Community
# Kuok Scholarship

## Current Recipients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient Name</th>
<th>Training Program</th>
<th>Research Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Kurteva (MUHC)</td>
<td>PhD in Epidemiology</td>
<td>Opioids use after discharge in cancer patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Santerre-Theil</td>
<td>MSc in Counseling Psychology</td>
<td>Psycho-oncology: patient-caregiver dynamics in cancer patients.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NEXT LAUNCH

**Summer 2019**
The RCN Skills Enhancement Fund
Skills Enhancement Fund:

• **Goal:** Strategic investments in increasing know-how and specific skills that translate to quality within the RCN oncology workforce.

• **2018 Edition focus:** Oncology Nursing

• RCN recognizes how uniquely positioned nurses at the frontlines of cancer care are in enhancing care quality.
  – Direct association:
  - Adverse Events
  - Better Care
  - Multidisciplinary Collaboration
  - Job Satisfaction

Enhancing Oncology Nursing Skills

Certification Employer Recognition Award Honourable Mention 2018
Skills Enhancement Fund:

- **Grant Value:** $1,500 / Recipient
- **Mode of Learning:** combination of self-paced e-learning modules, readings, occasional webcast or in-person workshop and examinations.
- **Next steps:** insuring maximum impact by supporting knowledge transfer within the nursing teams through “Lunch and Learn”.
- **Number of awardees for 2nd edition:** 130 nurses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Vascular Access Association Certification</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations in Oncology Nursing Practice</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Health in Cancer</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Teaching for Oral Chemotherapy &amp; Biotherapy</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Standardized Biotherapy &amp; Chemotherapy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification in Oncology Nursing</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification in Hospice Palliative Care Nursing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals in Blood &amp; Marrow Transplant</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>130</strong></td>
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</table>
Thank you